



State of California  
The Natural Resources Agency  
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	Downslope Calming Zone (16-LNU-0111)		
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>	Portions of the German Rancho: portions of projected Section 35, T11N, R15W, projected Sections 1, 2, 3 & 7, T10N, R15W and portions of projected Sections 7 & 18 T10N, R14W, MDB&M	<b>COUNTY</b>	Sonoma
<b>LEAD AGENCY</b>	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
<b>CONTACT</b>	Ben Nicholls, Fire Prevention Grants Local Contact		
<b>ADDRESS</b>	Sonoma-Lake-Napa Unit 1199 Big Tree Road St. Helena, CA 94574-9711	<b>PHONE</b>	(707) 967-1408

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This 77 acre fuels reduction-roadside shaded fuel break project (in a High Fire Severity Zone) will improve the fire safety of a portion of The Sea Ranch subdivision and its neighbors. This treatment will be an extension of the existing fuelbreak along several miles of Highway 1 and will help to reduce fuels within the likely path of fires pushed upslope of the highway, reducing fire intensity in those corridors thereby compartmentalizing fires and limiting their spread to 195 uphill residences. It will also provide for safer ingress and egress of evacuating residents and emergency response personnel. Additionally, it will increase the protection of local infrastructure; including the water treatment plant, power lines, cable and telephone systems. The Sea Ranch Fire Safe Council jurisdiction is made up of multiple ownerships of partial to multiple acre parcels and The Sea Ranch Association (TSRA) Commons Land.

The project is located in multiple Treatment Areas; portions of private property and "commons land" (owned by TSRA), situated east of Highway 1 in western Sonoma County, less than a mile from the Pacific Ocean. Vegetation in the project area is predominantly redwood and Douglas-fir trees that are competing with overstocked hardwoods (mostly tanoak and pacific madrone) and brush. There are also hedgerow cypress and grasslands near the project area.

Crews will use chainsaws, handsaws, and a chipper to remove ladder fuels around homes and in key areas, in 8 Treatment Areas totaling 77-acres upslope or adjacent to Highway 1. Dead and dying trees and shrubs will be removed and remaining trees will be limbed. Overall, slash treatment objectives are to reduce fuel loading and they will meet or exceed the standards for slash disposal in the Forest Practice Rules by the end of the project contract. All debris will generally be chipped and spread over the landscape near the road or (on steeper slopes) lopped and scattered.

All work will be performed in accordance to the Forest Practice Rules, County and Costal Commission regulations and TSRA Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions (CC&Rs).

All sensitive sites will be flagged as EEZs and protected per consultation with CalFire Archeologists and THPO. There will be no work performed in a WLPZ, ELZ or EEZ protected area. A sample area will be marked by the RPF (or a supervised designee) to illustrate the desired leave stand condition.

### EXEMPTION STATUS

- ☒ Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 4
- ☐ Statutory Exemption (state code section):
- ☐ Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)
- ☐ Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
- ☐ Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

### REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

This project fits under portions of 18.36.060 Class 4 Minor Alterations to Land, §15304

Field review by Matt Greene RPF #2747 confirmed that no exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. The Department has concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland/timberland, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, or to utilities and service systems. Documentation of



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the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at CAL FIRE's St. Helena office.

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DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

AUG 08 2018

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Helge Eng".

Helge Eng, Deputy Director  
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

8/3/18

Date